

GRACE TODAY

Vol. 21 No. 1

January 1, 2017

John MacArthur
PASTOR-TEACHER

Clayton Erb / Minister of Music

Welcome to the Lord's day
worship service at Grace Church.

We are truly blessed to be here
this morning as we open God's
Word together, sing His praises,
and enjoy a time of fellowship
in His presence.

Be sure to take advantage of
the many fellowship and ministry
opportunities available to
our church family today and
throughout the week.



8:30 & 10:30* am

Art of the Fugue, Contrapunctus 9 • Bach • Stephen Sturz, Organist

Hymn 47 Tell Out, My Soul • Congregation

Holy, Holy, Holy • Dykes/Rice • Brass Ensemble, Organ

How Firm a Foundation • Funk/Marsh • Worship Choir

Hymn 354 The Church's One Foundation • Congregation

O Glorious Love • Peterson/DeCou-Krogstad • Gay McCurley

MICHAEL MAHONEY PREACHING

Doxology Hymn • Congregation

Holy God, We Praise Thy Name • Trad./Sturz • Organ Postlude

Doxology Hymn

Hymn 176 Be Thou My Vision

Be Thou my Vision, O Lord of my heart;
Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art—
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.

Please note that there will be no worship service this evening.

Anthem

How Firm a Foundation

How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,
Is laid for your faith in His excellent Word!
What more can He say than to you He hath said,
To you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?

“Fear not, I am with thee; O be not dismayed,
For I am thy God, and will still give thee aid;
I’ll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,
Upheld by My righteous, omnipotent hand.

“When through fiery trials thy pathway shall lie,
My grace, all sufficient, shall be thy supply:
The flame shall not hurt thee; I only design
Thy dross to consume and thy gold to refine.

“The soul that on Jesus hath leaned for repose
I will not, I will not desert to its foes;
That soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,
I’ll never, no, never, no never forsake!”

Words by John Rippon (1787); music by Joseph Funk (1832); arranged by Don Marsh

* Interpreting for the deaf is provided during the 10:30 a.m. service. Arabic and Korean translation for the 10:30 a.m. service is available at gracechurch.org/live. A limited number of headsets are available at the front desk for simultaneous translation.

Campus Ministries

THE WELCOME CENTER hosts a reception for visitors following each Sunday-morning service. Enjoy refreshments and find helpful people with answers to any questions you have about our church. You'll also receive one of Pastor MacArthur's books as a thank you for being with us today.

THE MEMBER CENTER has information about membership and baptism. It is located on the north side of the Heritage Building, across from the Welcome Center.

Next Membership Class • January 8
102 • 8:30 & 10:30 a.m. • T370s

THE PRAYER ROOM is staffed with counselors, ready to offer pastoral care. It is open after every service, and is adjacent to the Worship Center.

Generations of Grace Children's Sunday School

The following lesson was taught **today** in Sunday School (Preschool through Juniors)



MESSAGE God's Sovereignty in the Book of Ruth

PASSAGE Ruth 1–4

PRINCIPLE Believers are to trust God's sovereignty and faithfully follow His commands.

HYMN OF THE MONTH "Redeemed"

ASK YOUR CHILD How were Naomi and Ruth obedient even in hard times?

APPLY By trusting that God is sovereign over both good and bad events.

THIS WEEK As a family, read selected portions of Ruth 1–4.

NEXT WEEK 1 Samuel 1–7

Adapted from the Generations of Grace Family Devotional, available at the bookstore.

On GraceWalk

- Fundamentals of the Faith
- Local Outreach

On the Patio

- Spanish Ministry
(by the Chapel)

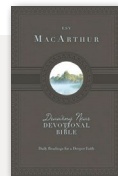
Bookstore

The Bookstore is open after each service and during the week. It is located on the south side of the Worship Center.

DAILY READING FOR THE NEW YEAR

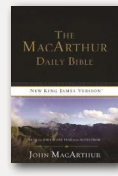
THE MACARTHUR DRAWING NEAR DEVOTIONAL BIBLE

Organized by the calendar year, each daily reading in the *Drawing Near Bible* presents an assigned passage accompanied by a brief devotional.



THE MACARTHUR DAILY BIBLE

The *Daily Bible* covers a portion of the Old Testament, New Testament, Psalms, and Proverbs for each day of the year, accompanied by guiding and informative comments.



Both available today for 30% off retail price

Grace to You

RADIO gty.org/radio

- "Question & Answer"
- 20/20 Spiritual Vision

• KKLA 99.5 FM LOS ANGELES M–F 6:30 am & 7:30 pm
• KDAR 98.3 FM OXNARD-VENTURA M–F 2:00 & 10:00 am; Sun 2:00 am

TELEVISION gty.org/television

"The Impossibility of Salvation, Part 1"

• NRBT CHANNEL 378 ON DIRECTV Sunday 6:30 pm

ONLINE gty.org

- Sunday sermons
- Audio archive: John MacArthur's pulpit ministry
- Resource library: books, study guides, videos, Q&As

All audio is available for free listening or downloading.

RESOLVED

For many Americans, New Year's Day is more than just another holiday. It's an opportunity for a fresh start, fueled by good intentions and undergirded by personal resolve.

Change is in the air this time of year. For those who were too busy, it's time to start enjoying life. For those who were too lax, it's time to get organized or learn something new. And for those who were overly self-indulgent, it's time to start exercising and stop using high interest credit cards.

Those are the kinds of New Year's resolutions that countless people will make as they set goals for 2017. In and of themselves, most of those objectives are noble. There's nothing wrong with wanting to become more active or more organized.

But shouldn't there be something more to the goals we set as believers? Shouldn't the resolutions we make reflect a completely different set of priorities?

While those in the world discipline themselves for physical gain, we are commanded to discipline ourselves for the purpose of godliness (1 Timothy 4:7–8). While they pursue the fleeting pleasures of

this passing age (1 John 2:16–17), we are to pursue holiness (1 Thessalonians 4:7). They have a temporal perspective, we are to have an eternal one; they live for personal gain, we are to live for God's glory (1 Corinthians 10:31); they conduct themselves however they see fit, we are to love God and keep His commandments (Mark 12:30).

From our allegiance to our attitudes to our actions—we are called to be different than the world around us. That's why Peter refers to believers as “aliens and strangers” (1 Peter 2:11), sojourners in this world (cf. Hebrews 11:13).

The seventy resolutions of Jonathan Edwards (the eighteenth-century American theologian) serve as a helpful example to us in this regard. Incredibly, Edwards penned his resolutions when he was only in his late teens and early twenties. Moreover, the commitments he made were lifelong pursuits; they were not limited to just the next year (as our New Year's resolutions often are).

A survey of Edwards's resolutions finds that they fall into ten general categories. It's intriguing, though not surprising, how different Edwards's “Top Ten Resolutions” are from those typically found in the world around us.

Here are the primary areas in which Jonathan Edwards was resolved...

- **To live for God's glory**
- **To make the most of this life, in terms of eternal impact**
- **To take sin seriously**
- **To become theologically astute**
- **To be humble**
- **To exhibit self-control in all things**
- **To always speak with grace and truth**
- **To constantly develop an eternal focus**
- **To be a faithful Christian, in prayer and dedication**
- **To daily pursue a fervent love for Christ**

Even when Edwards resolved to use his time wisely, to eat properly, or to maintain healthy relationships with others—resolutions that might sound familiar to many in our day and age—his resolve flowed out of a God-focused perspective that was eternal in scope. Thus his resolutions were not merely temporal lifestyle adjustments

designed to solve a perceived bad habit, but earnest spiritual decisions made for the purpose of combating sin and living a God-glorifying life.

Edwards did not solely rely on his own willpower or clever scheming to stay true to his resolutions. To be sure, his resolutions required personal discipline and hard work. Yet, unlike the self-made commitments of the world, Edwards ultimately relied on God's grace and power to sanctify him and grow him in spiritual maturity (cf. Philippians 3:12–13). In the preamble to his resolutions, he wrote, "Being sensible that I am unable to do anything without God's help, I do humbly entreat Him by His grace to enable me to keep these resolutions, so far as they are agreeable to His will, for Christ's sake."

So what kind of resolutions will you make this year? Will they be distinctively Christian? Will they correspond to biblical priorities? Will they be in accord with the will of God and for the glory of Christ?

As you make your New Year's resolutions for 2017, don't be content with merely planning to drop a few pounds or save a few pennies. Instead remember that, as a believer, to live is Christ (Philippians 2:21) and to follow Him is to deny yourself and take up your cross daily (Mark 8:34). He is to be the supreme object of all our aims and affections. He is the One we are to please; He is the One we are to praise; and He is the One we are to pursue. And if we keep our eyes on Him, this truly will be a wonderful new year.



SHEPHERDS' CONFERENCE SUMMIT

FEBRUARY 28–MARCH 3

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

This year's conference will feature an extended, four-day schedule (Tuesday–Friday), and we need volunteers to serve during that week. For more information or to register, visit gracechurch.org/volunteer.

As you plan to serve, remember...

The deadline for volunteer sign-ups is
Sunday, January 22.

There will be a mandatory meeting for all volunteers on
Sunday, January 29, in the Family Center.

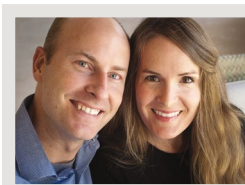
Grace Around the World

Carlan & Michelle Wendler

Serving in **Burundi** Since **2012**

Prayer / Praise

- Pray for continued progress in French language school.
- Pray for our team in Burundi as we cope with rapid growth (the team has almost tripled in size in the past three years) amidst the rapidly diminishing resources of a nation struggling with deep poverty and a declining economy.



Faith Promise

Remember, your Faith Promise giving is a great way to support our missionaries throughout the year.

Local Outreach Spotlight

Neighborhood Outreach

Sundays • 12:30 p.m. • T265

This ministry brings the good news of God's grace to our local community on Sunday afternoons. After a potluck meal, participants go out into the neighborhood to present the gospel, invite our neighbors to church, and learn about any needs our church may be able to meet. The ministry also does street evangelism at the North Hollywood Metro Station. For more information call 818-909-5721.

Holiday Schedule

Please note that there will be no evening service tonight.

The Grace Church campus (including the bookstore) will be closed Monday, January 2. For questions about a specific ministry, please contact your ministry leader.

Juniors Winter Camp

January 6–8 • Forest Home

Cost: \$190 (a discount is available for families with multiple children attending)

To register, stop by the tables in front Grace Grill this morning, or visit gracechurch.org/children.

Titus 2 Tuesday

January 10 • 7:00 p.m. • This month's topic: "Wayward Women of the Bible"

Studies meet in Canyon Country, Encino, Glendale, Northridge, Shadow Hills, Simi Valley, and Valencia. Women of all ages are invited for a time of discussion and fellowship. For specific meeting locations and RSVP information, visit gracechurch.org/women.

Special Membership Class

January 15 • 1:30–5:00

This one-time, extended class will cover all the material from and fulfill the requirements of all three membership classes (101–103). For more information or to register, stop by the Member Center after any Sunday service.

Men of the Word

Wednesdays • 7:00–8:30 p.m. • Worship Center

All men are invited to join us for Bible study and fellowship as Men of the Word resumes on Wednesday, January 4.

Upcoming topics include...

Q & A with Dr. John Street (January 4) • God's Omnipotence (January 11)
God's Omnipresence (January 18) • God's Omniscience (January 25)

Junior High Winter Camp

January 6–8 • Thousand Pines Christian Camp

For details or to register, visit gracechurch.org/xchange.

High School Winter Camp

January 14–16 • Forest Home

For details or to register, visit gracechurch.org/oneighty.

Logos Institute Discipleship Counseling 2

January 11–April 5 (Wednesdays) • 6:30–8:30 p.m.

Instructors: Bill Shannon, George Sanders, Oliver Jones • Cost: \$75

For more information or to register, visit gracechurch.org/logos.

Sojourners Women's Fellowship

Thursday, January 19 • 9:30–11:30 a.m. • T270s • Topic: "The Patience of God"

All women are welcome. Call 818-887-9717 for more information.

8:30 a.m.**Children's Sunday School**

Visit the Welcome Center
for room locations.
Pastor: Mike Johnston

Cornerstone

(All ages) T371
Pastors: Nathan Busenitz,
Mark Tatlock, Harry Walls

Doulos (Singles & young families) T361

Pastor: Carl Hargrove

FaithBuilders (All ages) T261

Pastor: Bill Shannon

GraceLife (All ages)

Family Center
Pastors: Phil Johnson,
Mike Riccardi

Junior High (Grades 7–8)

T73 (Basement)
Pastor: Jay Lennington

Developmentally Disabled

CC130E
Pastor: Rick McLean

Spanish Adult Sunday School H221-222

Teachers: Josiah Grauman,
José Soria

Spanish Worship Service

Chapel
Pastors: Henry Tolopilo,
Michael Mahoney

10:30 a.m.**Children's Sunday School**

Special needs class available
Visit the Welcome Center
for room locations.
Pastor: Mike Johnston

Crossroads

(College & young adults)
Family Center
Pastor: Austin Duncan

High School (Grades 9–12)

T73 (Basement)
Pastor: Josh Petras

Joint Heirs (All ages) T261

Pastors: Tom Patton, John Street

Mainstream (All ages) T361

Pastors: Rich Gregory,
Carlos Chung

Developmentally Disabled

CC130E
Pastor: Rick McLean

Sojourners (All ages) T371

Pastor: William Varner

Spanish Adult Sunday

School H221–222
Teachers: Rubén Pidal,
Daniel Corral

Spanish Worship Service

Chapel
Pastors: Henry Tolopilo,
Michael Mahoney

12:30 p.m.**Neighborhood Outreach**

T273

5:00 p.m.**Sunday Night Prayer Group**

Grace Grill
(next to the Children's Center)

6:00 p.m.**Discovery** (Grades 1–6)

Family Center

Discovery Kids (Ages 3–5)

CC134-136

Visit our website at

GRACECHURCH.ORG

Fridays 7:30 p.m.**The Guild** (Single adults)

T361
Pastor: Don Carr

Mondays 9:00 a.m.**Monday Morning Prayer Group**

T375

Building Abbreviation Key

T = Tower

H = Heritage

CC = Children's Center

MINISTRY DIRECTORY**Administration**

818-909-5500

Children

818-909-5631

Logos Institute

818-909-5500

Membership

818-909-5644

Men

818-909-5537

Outreach

818-909-5700

Pastoral Care & Counseling

818-909-5537

Prayer

818-909-5519

Spanish

818-909-5722

Special Ministries

818-909-5519

Student

818-909-5593

Women

818-909-5521

GRACE
COMMUNITY CHURCH

**13248 Roscoe Blvd.
Sun Valley, CA 91352**

*Our mission is to glorify God
and extend His kingdom by
living and proclaiming
His truth in the world.*

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